

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BELLINGHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR 1950.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BELLINGHAM.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1950.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for
BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
for the

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1950.

There have been no changes in the boundaries of the Rural District, which remains at 246,645 acres, approximately 380 square miles.

The population has increased, according to the Registrar General's estimate, to 5,683, an increase of 271 on last year. The reason for this increase in population is not quite clear.

The number of inhabited houses in the area at the end of 1950 according to the Rate Books 1,589
Rateable Value £43,929.
Sum represented by Penny Rate £174.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The operations of the Forestry Commission have been gradually extended during the year and now the greater part of the upper end of North Tynedale, Redesdale and Warkburn, is either planted with trees or being prepared for planting. These operations absorb a great deal of local labour. Coal mining is only on a very small scale, but the quarries appear to be working full time. Apart from farming, the only other industry of importance in the area is the woollen mill at Otterburn.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

			<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births, Legitimate	...	...	69	33	36
Live Births, Illegitimate	..	....	3	-	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	12.66		
Stillbirths (all legitimate)	...	...	1	1	-
Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)	...	...	13.74		
Deaths	...	...	72	35	37
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	12,669		

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES - Nil.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1949 and 1950.

	POPULATION estimated to the middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS registered in the district.	TRANSFER ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.					
		Uncor- rected No.	NETT		OUTWARD.	INWARD.	Under 1 year.		All ages.			
							No.	Rate.	No.	Rate, per 1000 net births	No.	Rate.
1949	5,324 Civilian + 80 Military.	45	84	15.40	52	9.76	2	19	5	61.72	69	12.96
1950	5,683	32	73	12.84	51	8.97	2	19	2	27.77	72	12.669

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DEATHS REGISTERED DURING YEAR 1950 AND CAUSES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS of RESIDENTS whether occurring within or without the district.		
	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	-	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Cancer of Stomach	1	-	1
Cancer of Breast	-	-	-
Cancer of all other sites	4	4	8
Diabetes	-	-	-
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	7	11
Hypertension	-	1	1
Heart Disease	11	14	25
Coronary Disease	3	6	9
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Digestive Diseases	2	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Nephritis	1	-	1
Brochitis	2	1	3
Premature Birth	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
Other accidents	1	-	1
All other causes	3	2	5
TOTALS.	35	37	72

INFANT MORTALITY, 1950.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	TOTAL under one month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	TOTAL under one year.
Haemorrhage of Newborn Post-natal Debility	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	27.77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	27.77
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	Nil.
Deaths from Measles	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	Nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As is usual in the winter time, in the month of January, influenza was very prevalent, but strangely enough there were no cases of any other infectious diseases.

In February the influenza epidemic became very widespread and virulent, all types being represented, but again there were few infectious diseases, only two cases of chicken-pox being notified.

March saw the influenza epidemic abating somewhat, but there were a few cases of pneumonia resulting from this disease. Apart from this, however, there were no other infectious cases.

In April an epidemic of whooping cough began. This originated outside the area and seemed likely to spread. There were also a few cases of measles imported by a visitor. Influenza showed signs of abating.

May saw a widespread outbreak in the Otterburn district of whooping cough. At least ten cases were notified, but undoubtedly a great many more did not come to light. In addition, there was an extensive outbreak of measles in and around Wark. Eighteen cases were notified. The influenza epidemic still prevailed, but not severely.

Although the weather improved in June, there was still quite a number of cases of influenza of all types. Sixteen cases of measles were notified scattered throughout the area. The whooping cough epidemic appeared to be dying out. There were two cases of erysipelas.

July saw a great improvement. Influenza had almost died out, the whooping cough outbreak had almost disappeared and there were no further cases of measles. Two cases of scarlet fever occurred in one house, but this did not seem likely to spread.

In August and September there were numerous cases of whooping cough in Wark, but what was more serious was two cases of infantile paralysis in widely separated districts.

In October, whooping cough was in full swing at Wark and also spread to the upper North Tyne. Thirty cases were notified, but undoubtedly there were a great many more. There was also one more case of poliomyelitis of the paralytic type; also one more case of erysipelas.

In November the infectious diseases showed signs of slackening, only four cases of whooping cough being notified, but unfortunately there was another case of poliomyelitis. One or two isolated cases of measles occurred.

The month of December was quiet until the last week, when there was a sudden wave of a very virulent type of influenza. There was also one more case of poliomyelitis, but other infectious diseases were of a trivial nature.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Drugs of the sulphonamide group have proved very valuable in treating certain types of infections, especially pneumonia, erysipelas and scarlatina. As all cases of scarlatina are now sent to hospital, antitoxin is only used as a prophylactic. Penicillin also played a very useful part in the treatment of infectious diseases, especially where there was a secondary infection. Unfortunately the search for a suitable whooping cough vaccine has not been successful, but recent reports of a certain type of vaccine seem to be very encouraging.

Probably 90% of the children in this area have been immunised against diphtheria, and there is no shadow of doubt that if the same could be said of every area in the country, diphtheria would practically disappear as a disease. There has not been a case in this area for two years.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Chicken-pox	10	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	53	-	-
Measles	22	-	-
German Measles	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	2	-
Poliomyelitis	5	5	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are adequate and specimens are dealt with expeditiously and efficiently at the Government Laboratory in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Service.

Paid for by the County Council, but organised by the Red Cross, is extremely efficient and is kept working at full pressure.

Nursing in the Home.

This is organised by the County Council. Four district nurses, each with a car, cover the whole of the rural district and maintain an admirably efficient service.

In addition there is a very useful Home Help Service, organised by the County Council, which does excellent work.

There are four Maternity and Child Welfare centres in the area - one at Otterburn, one at Bellingham, one at Kielder and one at Wark. These are organised and staffed by the County Council.

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	Number of inspections during the year.	Number of defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	Number of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal action.	Number of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>HOUSING.</u>							
Structural defects	281	62	97	14			
Defective food store	190	21	52	5			
Dampness	305	92	187	17			
Overcrowding	5	-	-	-			
<u>WATER SUPPLY.</u>							
Insufficient	244	5	-	-			
Unsatisfactory	222	2	-	-			
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>							
Insufficient	275	12	12	12			
Defective	310	41	41	41			
<u>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</u>							
Insufficient	283	4	4	4			
Defective	276	7	7	7			
Food Premises	43						
Shops Acts	-						
Dairies	3						
Slaughter houses	1						
Tents, Vans, etc.	-						
Offensive trades	-						
Factories and Workplaces	58						
Keeping of animals	-						
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	36	19	19	19			
Offensive accumulations	-						
Smoke Nuisances	-						
TOTALS:	2,532	265	419	119			

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Tabular Statement for Year 1950.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.	With State Assistance	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority (Permanent (Temporary	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) By other Bodies or (Permanent Persons (Temporary	1	1	2

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RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

CATEGORY	CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
1	Satisfactory in all respects	105
2	Minor defects	75
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	58
4	Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	10
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	19
	TOTAL	267

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit
in consequence of informal action by Local
Authority or its officers 82.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS:

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.

- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|-------|------|
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | Nil.) | |
| (b) By Local Authority in | | | | Nil. |
| default of owners | . | Nil.) | | |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|-------|------|
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | Nil.) | |
| (b) By Local Authority in | | | | Nil. |
| default of owners | ... | Nil.) | | |

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 1
- (3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (H.A.1949,S.3.) ... Nil.

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE ... 3.

HOUSING ACT, 1949. (Sec. 20)

- (a) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received. Nil.
- (b) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grants have been approved. Nil.

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SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	TOTAL.
<u>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</u>			
Privies & Privy ashpits abolished.	16		16
" " " repaired.	2		2
Pail-closets abolished	-		-
Water closets provided	4		4
Number of above for which grant was given (P.H.A.1936,S.47)	3		3
Sanitary bins provided	27		27
Sanitary bins renewed	2		2
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>			
New drains constructed	40		40
Drains repaired or reconstructed	7		7
Additional gullies provided	32		32
Old gullies replaced	19		19
Scullery sinks provided	5		5
Scullery waste-pipes repaired	6		6
Scullery waste-pipes trapped	-		-
Yards repaired or reconstructed	2		2

WATER SUPPLY.

Sources closed or discontinued ...2... No. of houses ...2....

New service provided:

(a) By Local Authority ...Nil:... No. of houses ...Nil:...

(b) By Private Owner ...7.... No. of houses ...7....

Number of dwelling houses supplied by (a) internal tap ...969....
(b) Standpipe, well
or spring ...620....

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered.	Seized.	Legal - Proceedings.
1. Beef (Home killed) Stones.	18 st. 2 lb.	-	-
2. Beef (Imported) "	-	-	-
3. Mutton (Home killed) "	3 st. 8 lb.	-	-
4. Mutton (Imported) "	-	-	-
5. Pork (Home killed) "	-	-	-
6. Pork (Imported) "	-	-	-
7. Game Lbs.	-	-	-
8. Poultry "	-	-	-
9. Fish "	-	-	-
10. Fruit lbs. or cases	-	-	-
11. Canned Goods. Tins or cases	28 tins.	-	-
12. Bacon lbs.	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-
13. Cheese "	-	-	-
14. Butter "	-	-	-
15. Lard "	-	-	-
16. Eggs	-	-	-
17. Other foods	5 lbs.	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNBROKEN FOOD	Substantiated.	Collected.	Legal - Proceedings
1. Beef (Home Killed) Bones.	15 ct. 8 lb.	-	-
2. Beef (Imported)	-	-	-
3. Mutton (Home Killed)	3 ct. 8 lb.	-	-
4. Mutton (Imported)	-	-	-
5. Pork (Home Killed)	-	-	-
6. Pork (Imported)	-	-	-
7. Game	-	-	-
8. Poultry	-	-	-
9. Fish	-	-	-
10. Fruit	-	-	-
11. Canned Goods, Tins or cases	25 ct. 1 lb.	-	-
12. Bacon	60	-	-
13. Cheese	-	-	-
14. Butter	-	-	-
15. Lard	-	-	-
16. Eggs	-	-	-
17. Other Foods	8 lbs.	-	-

